
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Advanced Education

FUNDING SUPPORTS EDUCATION FOR LHEIDLI T'ENNEH

PRINCE GEORGE – The Province is providing the College of New Caledonia with a \$250,000 grant to help the Lheidli T'enneh band meet their education needs as they move towards their goal of self-government, Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell announced today.

“This funding will help about 100 members of the band acquire vital skills like adult basic education and job readiness, management and leadership,” said Coell. “Providing access to skills training and education on-site will support the band to achieve their vision for the future as a community.”

The funding supports a foundation program on the Shelley Reserve for the Lheidli T'enneh First Nation, providing training in business technology, administration, customer service, public speaking and mathematics. The college provides a co-ordinator, as well as academic advisers and counsellors on-site, so students have immediate access to information and support. The band and the college worked together to design courses that will help members gain the skills needed to fill the future economic needs of the community as they increase development.

“Working with Aboriginal partners in education and community development is one of the key mandates of the college,” said John Bowman, president of the College of New Caledonia. “We are pleased that the Lheidli T'enneh band is demonstrating leadership in this area, and we look forward to a longstanding relationship.”

The 300-member band worked with the college to identify several principles to guide the training, including increasing education in governance, technology and e-learning opportunities, and sustainability that will build on the assets and strengths of the community.

“We are pleased with the College of New Caledonia and government’s partnership, support and assistance in addressing a significant challenge confronting Aboriginal governments in meeting the supply and demand of a more qualified workforce that reflects the cultural and learning needs of our community,” said Chief Dominic Frederick. “This is an exciting area of capacity development and builds on Lheidli T'enneh training and educational strategies.”

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In April, Premier Gordon Campbell announced the Province's \$65-million Aboriginal post-secondary strategy to meet the higher learning commitments in the Transformative Change Accord and close the gap in education opportunities between First Nations and other British Columbians. The strategy helps meet that commitment by focusing efforts and working collaboratively to improve the quality of life of Aboriginal people in B.C. over the next 10 years.

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